

about to change. We are already seeing the development of new strains of plants that have specific traits to improve the nutritional quality of foods derived from them. Work at Iowa State University, for example, has developed soybeans that produce a soybean oil with lower saturated fat than conventional soybeans. We are not far from having rice that contains Vitamin A, which would alleviate a great deal of human suffering in developing countries.

Perhaps the most fascinating area of biotechnology involves the potential for developing new crops and livestock designed to produce a variety of raw materials and substances, likely to be of high value, for use in very specific applications, including medicine. We can produce from plants everything we now rely on petroleum to produce: energy and industrial raw materials for a wide range of products. I believe there will be real economic opportunities for farmers in producing these higher value crops and animals, and for rural communities in processing them.

To be sure, if agricultural biotechnology is to meet its potential, we must ensure that all questions about its safety for consumers and for the environment are fully answered. I believe that those questions can and will be answered satisfactorily, using the best sound science available.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, as January 2000, National Biotechnology Month, comes to a close, I want to recognize the importance of the biotechnology to the nation and to commend this industry for its innovations in disease diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

The United States is the leader in the biotechnology industry, and I am proud to say that California has the nation's largest concentration of health care technology companies. California, alone, is home to over 2,500 biomedical companies and employs over 241,000 people in health care technology and biomedical and clinical research fields. California's health care technology companies are producing leading edge products, for example, the first new therapy for cystic fibrosis in 30 years, Genetech; technology that enables doctors to do heart surgery without opening the chest cavity, Heartport; a cancer drug that is genetically engineered and stimulates the bone marrow to produce important white blood cells, Amgen; linear accelerators for treating cancer, Varian; and intraocular eye lenses, Allergan.

Biotechnology has enabled us to reduce hospital stays, to detect cancer and other life-threatening illnesses earlier in order to begin treatments earlier; to attack diseases cell by cell to eliminate unnecessary side effects, and to use vaccines to prevent abnormal cell growth. This is a critical time in biotechnology, as scientists con-

tinue to make strides in cellular and genetic research, and I am hopeful that this work will improve our health and well-being. I am confident that as this industry continues to grow, we will see treatments to greatly improve the lives of millions of Americans, and we will see cures to illnesses that we did not think were possible.

I commend the more than 150,000 employees of the biotech industry nationwide and join them in observing January as National Biotechnology Month.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I rise today in recognition of National Biotechnology Month. Biotechnology has produced drugs that hold the promise for many to live healthier lives. Biotechnology also holds enormous promise to make even more profound contributions to public health in the future.

For example, biotechnology strategies include the development of cancer vaccines as well as drugs that target specific cancer antigens to stimulate a patient's own immune system to kill tumor cells. There are so many other diseases that devastate families, like Alzheimers and heart disease, which biotechnology could be applied to successfully.

The Federal government has increased funding for basic scientific research. Private sector investments and small business development should also be encouraged. As remarkable as some of its achievement so far, biotechnology is only beginning. It is appropriate to begin the 21st Century with National Biotechnology Month because biotechnology holds so much promise for medicine and improving the quality of life.

SUPER BOWL CHAMPION, ST. LOUIS RAMS

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam President, it is with great pride that I rise today with my distinguished colleagues to express my sincere congratulations to the Super Bowl XXXIV Champion St. Louis Rams. In the aftermath of a heart-stopping NFC division victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and an outstanding regular season record of 13 wins and 3 losses, the St. Louis Rams increased their intensity to win Super Bowl XXXIV, bringing home the most prized possession in the National Football League, the Lombardi Trophy. In an extraordinary effort and show of heart, the Rams countered the incredible second-half push by the Tennessee Titans in a game that more than lived up to its billing of "Super" and made history on Sunday, January 30, 2000, by pulling out a thrilling victory by the score of 23-16, becoming the Super Bowl XXXIV Champions.

This was Coach Dick Vermeil's third year as head coach of the Rams. Coach Vermeil previously led the Philadelphia Eagles to the Super Bowl in 1980,

but had been away from coaching for almost 15 years. The passionate 63 year old coach showed he still had the stuff it takes to lead this team of stars to the championship. The fans of professional football have appropriately awarded Coach Vermeil by voting him the Staples Coach of the Year, the only NFL honor determined solely by a vote of the fans.

The three-year path to glory began slowly, with 9 wins and 23 losses over the previous two seasons, including just 4 victories last season, but the team turned it around this year. While the Rams were truly a team that played well together all year, this triumphant season can be attributed to the performance of several key players, including six players that were chosen to start in the Pro Bowl.

Kurt Warner, stepping in as the starter after Trent Green was injured in an early preseason game, enjoyed one of the best years ever for an NFL quarterback, throwing for 4,353 yards, 41 touchdowns and only 13 interceptions, a performance worthy of being awarded the NFL's Most Valuable Player and the Pro Bowl starting quarterback. This remarkable individual, in just his second season in the NFL, was bagging groceries in Waterloo, Iowa, just five years ago. While setting passing and scoring records in the Arena Football League for 3 seasons and one season in the NFL Europe, he never gave up his dream of playing in the NFL. Last night, he helped to bring the dream of a Super Bowl championship home to St. Louis.

Marshall Faulk, one of the league's premier running backs, set an NFL record this season for combined rushing and receiving yards from the line of scrimmage in a single season with 2,429, in addition to scoring 12 touchdowns. He was also chosen to start in the Pro Bowl.

All season long, the team benefitted from a stellar group of talented receivers, led by Isaac Bruce, who will join his teammates in the Pro Bowl; Torry Holt; Az-zahir Hakim; and Ricky Proehl. Proehl, you may remember, caught a clutch game-winning touchdown in the closing minutes of the Rams' win last week over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, while Bruce made a truly spectacular play in the fourth-quarter of the Super Bowl by catching a 73 yard touchdown pass that sealed the championship. These stars helped the Rams to establish early on that they were an offensive-minded team, scoring a total of 526 points this season, the third-most in NFL history.

But as the saying goes, "Defense wins championships," and the Rams proved this adage, by leading the NFL in rushing defense, and ranking sixth in the league in overall defense. This season, the Rams' defensive end, Kevin Carter, led the league with 17 quarterback sacks and earned his first start in

the Pro Bowl. After only 5 years in the league, this outstanding defender has developed a well-documented work ethic that has helped him achieve more sacks over the past two seasons than anyone else in the league.

We all know that to be champions requires a strong commitment to work harder and be more disciplined than the rest. The Rams' Super Bowl win is a credit to the extraordinary efforts by the entire Rams' organization. After moving to St. Louis in 1995, the management went to work in hiring excellent personnel and a committed coaching staff. This season, the organization's slogan was aptly and accurately versed: "Gotta go to work!" With the whole organization working as one cohesive unit and regularly working well beyond the hours of 9 to 5, they showed us just how much can be accomplished when everyone works together for a common goal and is committed to doing more than his or her fair share.

We would be remiss if we overlooked another admirable quality of this fine organization, and that is the commitment to the community. When the Rams relocated to St. Louis in 1995, the team identified community involvement as one of the top priorities. Since that time, many charitable organizations have benefitted from the time and resources of these big-hearted athletes, as various Rams players have dedicated dollars for every touchdown, interception, field goal, sack and more. Some examples of how these stars contribute to the community include:

1. The defensive line—donating \$500 for every quarterback sack to a local homeless shelter.
2. Wide receiver Isaac Bruce—donating \$500 for every touchdown to Edgewood's Childhaven, an educational center for children with learning disabilities.
3. Running back Marshall Faulk—continuing the "Marshall Plan" that began in Indianapolis by donating \$2,000 for every touchdown that he scores to the Marshall Faulk Foundation.
4. Quarterback Trent Green—donating \$300 for every Rams passing touchdown to the Trent Green Family Foundation.
5. Safety Keith Lyle—donating \$500 for every interception to local literacy programs.
6. Kicker Jeff Wilkins—donating \$50 for every field goal to Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital.
7. Tight end Roland Williams—donating \$86 for every catch to the Roland Williams Youth Life Line Foundation which supports children in Roland's hometown.

Most of these players have also been successful in receiving matching commitments from local businesses and individuals, helping to foster a true sense of community. In addition, each year, players make countless appearances at

local schools, hospitals and youth centers to use their influence with children to stress the importance of education and making proper choices in life.

The hard work and dedication of the Rams to their team and the people of the St. Louis metropolitan area deserves our highest commendations. So, on behalf of myself and the good people of my state of Illinois, I congratulate Coach Dick Vermeil, Super Bowl Most Valuable Player Kurt Warner, Marshall Faulk, Isaac Bruce, and the entire St. Louis Rams team on an outstanding performance.

Coach Vermeil, players, and fans: congratulations on a great season and an outstanding victory.

REPEAL OF THE EFFECTIVE CAPITAL GAINS TAX INCREASE IN THE TAX RELIEF EXTENSION ACT OF 1999

Mr. ABRAHAM. Madam President, I rise today to speak in favor of S. 2005 which would repeal the effective capital gains tax increase contained in the Tax Relief Extension Act of 1999. This legislation would protect small business owners from paying taxes on money not actually received.

Overlooked in last year's legislation was a provision that repealed the installment method for accrual method taxpayers when assets or entire businesses are sold. Under this new method, the seller of an asset or business is required to pay taxes on total gains in the first year of the sale, no matter when the actual proceeds are received. S. 2005 would revert this practice to its previous method in which the seller of an asset only paid taxes on the profits from the installment received in that year if he or she should receive payments in increments.

While this tax measure provides for only modest tax revenue, the negative impact on small business owners that this measure affects is quite significant. In effect, this tax increase cripples seller financing of small businesses and prevents thousands of men and women from purchasing small businesses. By potentially reducing the sale price of small businesses by up to 20 percent or more, small business owners will be much less likely to sell their businesses. Larger publicly traded corporations are not impacted as they tend to use other financing methods involving cash or stock transactions. So, this tax increase unfairly targets small business owners already overwhelmed with federal taxes and regulations.

Madam President, it makes common sense that taxes should only be paid when profits are realized—and not on money that will not be collected for years to come. Small businesses are an important provider of new jobs and a driving force in this nation's economy.

We must not penalize or restrict such a vibrant source of innovation, invention and creativity that has enabled the United States to realize previously unimaginable prosperity.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to join me in support of this legislation so essential in the success of this great nation.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDING

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON THE STRATEGIC CONCEPT OF NATO—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 79

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President of the United States, including by section 1221(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106-65), I hereby determine and certify that the new NATO Strategic Concept imposes no new commitment or obligation on the United States. Further, in accordance with section 1221(c) of the Act, I transmit herewith the attached unclassified report to the Congress on the potential threats facing the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 31, 2000.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. RES. 402

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House inform the Senate that a quorum of the House is present and that the House is ready to proceed with business.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with